UNITED NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/COM.3/EM.4/1
9 February 1998

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting on Inter-Firm Cooperation
Geneva, 20-22 April 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The impact of government policy and government/private action in stimulating inter-firm partnership regarding technology, production and marketing, with particular emphasis on North-South and South-South linkages in promoting technology transfers (know-how, management expertise) and trade for SME development)

4. Adoption of the report

GE.98-50123

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1 Election of officers

It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is shown in section I above. The draft schedule of meetings is attached to this document. The Expert Meeting will have three working days to complete its business. Normal meeting hours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. It is recommended that the discussion on item 3 of the agenda be followed by drafting of recommendations on the item for consideration by the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. It would therefore be useful if the deliberations on item 3 could be completed by the evening of Tuesday, 21 April 1998, to allow time for preparation and consideration of the draft recommendations, which should be adopted on the afternoon of Wednesday, 22 April 1998.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.4/1	Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3 The impact of government policy and government/private action in stimulating inter-firm partnership regarding technology, production and marketing with particular emphasis on North-South and South-South linkages in promoting technology transfers (know-how, management expertise) and trade for SME development.

The discussion at the Expert Meeting under this substantive item and its outcome are expected to assist the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development in drawing lessons from various experiences in the development of inter-firm cooperation through partnership and to formulate possible recommendations on how to improve this cooperation as a tool for enterprise development and enhancing the competitiveness of firms, particularly SMEs, from developing countries and economies in transition.

To facilitate the discussion at the Expert Meeting, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Selected policy issues, measures and programmes on inter-firm partnerships" (TD/B/COM.3/EM.4/2).

This report attempts to provide information on some of the issues concerning inter-firm partnerships which might be discussed at the Expert Meeting. The document briefly considers the impact of partnerships on technological capability-building and export competitiveness of enterprises and implications of partnering for technological innovation and learning. It also examines policies at different levels that help to create an environment conducive to the formation of partnerships and the role of various support structures and programmes for strengthening inter-firm cooperation. Finally, the report raises a number of questions which the Expert Group may wish to discuss. The report could be read together with other documents prepared earlier by the UNCTAD secretariat on the issue of inter-firm cooperation through partnership, including an "Overview of activities in the area of inter-firm

Draft schedule of meetings

Monday, 20 April	Tuesday, 21 April	Wednesday, 22 April
10 a.m. Agenda items 1 and 2 - Opening of the meeting - Election of officers - Adoption of the agenda 11 a.m. Agenda item 3 - Introduction of item 3 - Consideration of item 3 in an informal meeting	10 a.m. Agenda item 3 Informal meeting cont'd.	10 a.m. Agenda item 3 Consideration of outcome
3 p.m Agenda item 3 Informal meeting cont'd.	3 p.m. Agenda item 3 Informal meeting cont d. 6 p.m. Conclusion of informal discussion on item 3	3 p.m. Finalization and adoption of outcome 6 p.m. Close of the Expert Meeting

cooperation: A progress report" (UNCTAD/ITE/EDS/2), which was made available to the second session of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. These are available to delegations on request.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.4/2 "Selected policy issues, measures and programmes on inter-firm partnerships"

Item 4 Adoption of the report

The Expert Meeting will adopt the outcome of its deliberations at the end of the meeting. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairman after the conclusion of the Meeting.